

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Applicant(s) submit(s) herewith two (2) sheets of new drawings, including FIGURES 3 and 4. The amendments to the drawings are as follows:

Reference number "50" has been changed to --50(N)-- in both FIGURES 3 and 4.

REMARKS

The Examiner's communication dated March 7, 2006 has been received and carefully considered. In conformance with the applicable statutory requirements, this paper constitutes a complete reply and/or a bona fide attempt to advance the application to allowance. Specifically, claims 1, 7, 10, 14-15 and 21-23 have been amended and detailed arguments in support of patentability of all claims have been included. Reexamination and/or reconsideration of the application as amended are respectfully requested.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 15-18 and 21 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim 22 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hongu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,384,375).

Claims 14, 19, 20 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hongu et al. taken with Matasovic (U.S. Patent No. 4,147,919).

Claims 1-14, 19, 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Feichtinger et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0026392).

35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 22 has been carefully amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection.

The Claims Distinguish Patentably Over the Reference(s) of Record

Claim 1, as amended, calls for a wire feeder having an input lead connected to the output lead of one remotely located power source of a plurality of power sources. A receiver on said one remotely located power source shifts said remotely located power source to an on condition upon receipt of a starting signal with a given code that is specific to said one remotely located power source. A transmitter is on the wire feeder to transmit said starting signal with said given code to said one remotely located power source when a trigger switch is closed whereby said one remotely located power source is shifted to its on condition when said trigger is in a weld position. Original claim 1 was rejected as being

obvious over Feichtinger et al., as indicated in the Summary section above. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, particularly as amended, patentably distinguishes over Feichtinger et al. and all the other references of record.

Feichtinger et al. fails to disclose a wire feeder having an input lead connected to the output lead of one remotely located power source of a plurality of power sources. Further, Feichtinger et al. fails to disclose a receiver on said one remotely located power source that shifts said remotely located power source to an on condition upon receipt of a starting signal with a given code that is specific to said one remotely located power source. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2-6 dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance.

Claim 7, as amended, calls for a method for turning on one particular power source of an electric arc welder from a plurality of power sources. The one particular power source has a receiver that is operative only upon receipt of a signal with a specific identification code that is particular to the one particular power source. The method includes transmitting a signal with said specific code particular to said one particular power source from the wire feeder to the power source when starting is sensed and setting the code of the transmitted signal from the wire feeder to the specific code particular to said one particular power source. Original claim 7 was rejected as being obvious of Feichtinger et al. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7, as amended, patentably distinguishes over all the references of record, including Feichtinger et al.

Feichtinger et al. fails to disclose a method for turning on one particular power source from a plurality of power sources. Further, Feichtinger et al. fails to disclose transmitting a signal with a specific code that is particular to said one particular power source from a wire feeder to the power source when starting is sensed. Feichtinger et al. further fails to disclose setting the code of the transmitted signal from the wire feeder to the specific code particular to said one particular power source. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7 and claims 8-9 dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance.

Claim 10, as amended, calls for a wire feeder having an input lead connected to the output lead of one of a plurality of remotely located power sources each having a signal receiver for receiving a transmitted signal with a code unique to one of said power sources. A transmitter is on each of said plurality of power sources for transmitting on said output

lead a coded signal specific to said power source. A circuit in the wire feeder transmits command signals from the wire feeder, which command signals each have the unique codes specific to the power source connected to the wire feeder. Applicant respectfully submits that this arrangement is neither taught, nor fairly suggested, in Feichtinger et al., the reference used to reject original claim 10.

Feichtinger et al. fails to disclose an arrangement wherein a wire feeder is connected to one of a plurality of power sources each having a signal receiver for receiving a transmitted signal with a code unique to one of the power sources. No transmitter is disclosed in Feichtinger et al. on each of a plurality of power sources for transmitting on an output lead a coded signal specific to the power source. Further, no signal receiver is disclosed in Feichtinger et al. on a wire feeder to receive a unique code from the specific power source connected to the wire feeder, nor is a circuit disclosed in the wire feeder for transmitting command signals from the wire feeder, which command signals each have the unique code specific to the power source connected to the wire feeder. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10 and claims 11-13 dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance.

Claim 14, as amended, calls for a network comprising a wire feeder with an input for welding power and a plurality of power sources each having an output lead connectable to the input of the wire feeder. Each one of the power sources has a transmitter for transmitting a unique coded signal particular to said one of the power sources on its input lead and a receiver for receiving coded command signals from said wire feeder. The wire feeder has a transmitter for transmitting coded command signals which are coded with said unique coded signal so as to be received by only said one of said plurality of said power sources connected to said wire feeder for operation of said one of said plurality of power sources in accordance with said coded command signals transmitted from the wire feeder. Applicant respectfully submits that this arrangement is neither taught, nor fairly suggested, by the references of record.

In particular, none of the references of record disclose power sources each having a transmitter for transmitting a unique coded signal particular to said one of said power sources on its output lead and a receiver for receiving coded command signals from a wire feeder. Moreover, none of the references of record disclose a wire feeder having a transmitter for transmitting coded command signals which are coded with said unique

coded signal so as to be received by only said one of said plurality of said power sources. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 14 and claims 15-19 dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance.

Claim 21, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 21 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 22, as amended, calls for an electric arc welder with an output lead and a transmitter for transmitting a coded identification signal unique to one power source of a plurality of power sources on the output lead. Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references of record disclose an electric arc welder with an output lead and a transmitter for transmitting a coded identification signal that is unique to one power source of a plurality of power sources. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 22 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 23, as amended, calls for a wire feeder with an input power lead and a receiver for receiving a coded identification signal on the input power lead. The identification signal is unique to one power source of a plurality of power sources connected to the input lead. None of the references of record disclose a coded identification signal that is unique to one power source of a plurality of power sources. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 23 is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

All formal and informal matters having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. It is believed that the claim changes clearly place the application in condition for allowance, defining over any fair teaching attributable to the references of record. Alternatively, if the Examiner is of the view that the application is not in clear condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned for purposes of conducting a telephone interview to resolve any outstanding differences. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP



Erik J. Overberger, Reg. No. 48,556
1100 Superior Avenue, Seventh Floor
Cleveland, OH 44114-2579
216-861-5582

June 6, 2006
Date

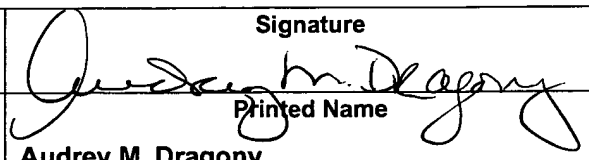
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